

THE HIGHAMS PARK PLANNING GROUP

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On Wednesday 12th October 2022 at 7:30 pm

At All Saints Church, Church Avenue, Highams Park, E4 9QZ

Attendees: 75

Coordinating Committee Attendees:

Tony Bell
Geoff Carter, Treasurer
Janet Charlesworth, Deputy Chair
Camille Hastings-Prosser
Jade Holt
John Moss
Mike Payne, Secretary
Gordon Turpin, Chair

Apologies for Absence:

None

(1) Welcome & introductions

Gordon Turpin (GT) welcomed members to the ninth Annual General Meeting of the Highams Park Planning Group (HPPG) and, the meeting being quorate, acted as Chair for the meeting.

GT invited attendees to ask questions of the Committee after each agenda item.

(2) Agree minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as presented.

(3) Matters arising from minutes of last meeting

There were no matters arising.

(4) Update/Refresh on HPPG and the HP Plan

a. GT Provided a refresh of HPPG's timeline, as follows:

- HPPG was formally established January 2014
- Following a ninety-day public consultation HPPG was officially designated by LBWF as the Neighbourhood Development Forum for the Highams Park area in July 2014
- The Highams Park Plan (HP Plan) was prepared following extensive consultations with local people between 2013 to 2019.
- The plan was put to a referendum of residents on 5th March 2020 and was accepted with a majority of 96.4%.
- The HP Plan was formally as part of their planning policy by Waltham Forest Council on 21st May 2020.
- HP Plan policies are now used as a benchmark by Council Officers when planning applications are assessed in the HP Plan Area

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- HPPG is a statutory Consultee and we are advised of all applications in HP Plan Area.
- What next:
 - HPPG's status as the Neighbourhood Development Forum has to be renewed every five years – the next renewal is due in July 2024
 - The HP Plan will need to be refreshed when new Council Local Plan is adopted.

b. Projects & Activities

- Responding to planning applications and Council consultations (covered in next section)
- Replanting the wildflower beds in The Highams Park
- Ongoing conservation works by the Highams Park Snedders
- Ongoing litter picking sessions
- New seating area in front of Humphry's Café
- hSpark Radio
- Events:
 - Spring Festival (with the Friends of Highams Park)
 - Arts & Culture Trail
 - Love Hale End Library Day & Vintage Market
 - Picnic in The Park (will be back in 2023)
 - French Market
 - Christmas Tree & Carols at the Library
 - Christmas Fayre
- Fundraising Concerts
- Refurbishing community rooms at Highams Park Station
- Community use of compound behind Humphry's
- Highams Park District Centre Project
- Mallinson Scout Centre
- New Heritage Trail Project being planned
- Replacing the 'signature tree' & noticeboard at the top of Signal Walk

(5) Planning issues

HPPG has been monitoring and responding to planning applications, in particular the following:

a. James Yard – 480 to 510 Larkshall Road

HPPG and many residents objected to a planning application for a five to seven storey block of 72 flats immediately behind Highams Park Station. The

Council Planning Committee refused the planning application. The developer, Atlantis – Highams, appealed the decision to the Planning Inspectorate and a six-day inquiry will be held in November 2022. The inquiry will be held at Walthamstow Town Hall and Residents will be allowed to attend the inquiry.

b. Hedgemoor Court

HPPG assisted residents of Hedgemoor Court in Castle Avenue in objecting to an additional two floors being added on top of the block. The Council refused the application and the developer appealed to the Planning Inspectorate. The Planning Inspectorate refused the appeal principally on the grounds that the additional floors were out of character with the existing building and that the privacy of the neighbouring property would be substantially affected.

It is expected that the developer will submit a revised proposal.

c. De La Warr Court

HPPG assisted residents of De La Warr Court in Handsworth/Church Avenue Avenue in objecting to an additional two floors being added on top of the block. The Council refused the application and the developer has appealed to the Planning Inspectorate. No decision has yet been received for the appeal.

d. Landscape Contractors Yard, Land adjacent to Larkwood Leisure Centre, New Road, E4 9EY

HPPG is preparing an objection to a seven-storey development in New Road immediately adjacent to Larks Wood and another area of Local Green Space.

The objections will centre around the detrimental effect of noise and light pollution on Larks Wood and the fact that the development is wholly out of character with the light suburban nature of the surrounding neighbourhood.

e. 17-23 The Avenue

A proposal to convert the HMO on this site into flats was refused planning permission. The developer is preparing an appeal to the Planning Inspector.

f. The Council Local Plan

The Council Local Plan submitted to the Planning Inspector was not passed. The Council has been requested to reconsider certain items by the Planning Inspector and to reconsult with residents.

g. The Regal

Mammoth Construction is in discussion with the Council Planning team about certain proposed changes to the design. They have reaffirmed that it is still their intention to go ahead with a two-screen cinema on the site and will be holding a public consultation at Hale End Library (and online) in December 2022.

(6) Highams Park Community CIC

An update of the role of HP CIC and how it relates to HPPG was provided.

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HP CIC is a community interest company and was set up by HPPG. Its board is comprised of members of HPPG and clearly defined memorandum and articles of association.

- Provides limited liability status and a funding vehicle.
- Provides support and assistance to HPPG in implementation of HP Plan projects.
- Undertakes projects and other activities that benefit the people in the Highams Park Plan Area.
- Operates in collaboration with other organisations in the Highams Park Plan Area who share similar objectives.
- Station Rooms & District Centre Project
- Oversees Humphry's Café.

(7) Financial position

GT presented HPPG's financial position. In summary, as at 31st December, 2021 HPPG's cash and bank account stood at £ 11,595.

Funds generated from grants, ticket sales, stallholder fees and donations during 2021 were £15,188. This was higher than the previous year due to a pick-up in events and projects post Covid lockdowns.

(8) Election/Re-election of Coordinating Committee members

The existing committee plus three new proposed members were elected unanimously by attendees at the meeting.

Gordon Turpin	Chair
Janet Charlesworth	Deputy Chair
Mike Payne	Secretary
Geoffrey Carter	Treasurer
Camille Hastings-Prosser	General Member - Heritage
Tony Bell	General Member - Transport
Jade Holt	General Member – Arts & Culture
John Moss	General Member and Compliance & Legal
Rob Varney	New General Member
Dan Rouse	New General Member
Liz Jones	New General Member

(9) Any other business

None

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(10) Closure of meeting

The business of the meeting was concluded at 8:35 pm and attendees were invited to stay for the guest speaker.

(11) Guest Speaker – Fay Cannings -Town Centre Lead – North, Place Directorate, Waltham Forest Council

Fay provided an update on the Council's activities to support town centres and plans to collaborate/support HP CIC with the new community rooms at Highams Park Station.

(12) Refreshments and informal discussions.

Attendees were invited to stay for refreshments and informal discussions.